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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/734,348

12/12/2003

Mustansir M. Banatwala

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11/15/2006

EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/734,348

Applicant(s)

BANATWALA ET AL.

Examiner

KAMAL B. DIVECHA

Art Unit

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Applicant's arguments filed August 22, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response filed applicant argues in substance that:

- a. Mukherjee fails to provide the applicant's claimed limitation, "providing a named collaborative space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and configured to manage a plurality of business process components disposed within the named space in a one-to-many relationship (remarks, page 9).

In response to argument [a], Examiner respectfully disagrees in light of the following:

Applicant specification recites (see page 9 [0022-0025] and fig. 2):

[0022] The relationship between NCS 10 and other objects within a named collaborative space instance is described with respect to Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 2, NCS object 17 has a 1 to many relationships with member objects 18, business component instances 20, metadata objects 22 and community role objects 24. Community role objects 24 likewise have a 1 to many relationships with community role mapping objects 26. NCS object 17 includes as elements a global unique identifier (GUID), a name, a type, a boolean indicator as to whether the instantiation is a template, a portal place ID identifying the named space 12 for the NCS as well as other information defining size, creation dates, times, modification tracking, etc.

[0023] Member object 18 identifies and relates members to a particular named collaborative space 10 as well as a community role. Community roles are discussed below in detail.

[0024] Business component instance object 20 includes as elements a GUID, a reference back to the GUID for the NCS instance, the name of the business component, the type of business component, an ID for the business component, a portlet ID, if applicable, as well as an ID indicating which portal page the business component is associated with, i.e. the named space.

[0025] Metadata object 22 provides the ability to add and define additional properties of an NCS and includes as elements a name, a reference back to the GUID for the NCS...

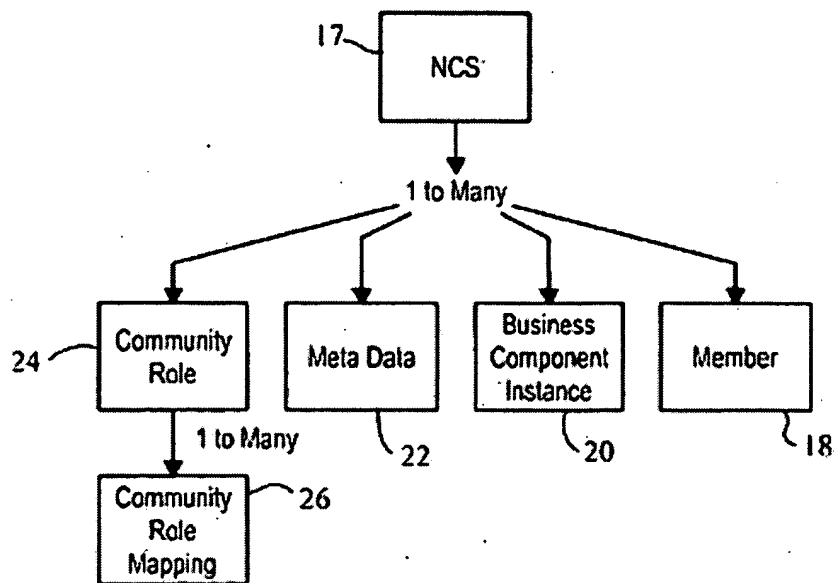


FIG. 2

In other words, the one-to-many relationship is simply an environment wherein a single collaborative space comprises a plurality of objects such as member object that identifies and relates members to a particular named collaborative space, business object that provides business instances and metadata object that provides the ability to add and define additional properties of an NCS.

Mukherjee, explicitly discloses a collaborative environment comprising plurality of clients, each client comprising: the distributed collaborative application comprising one or more distributable components, wherein each component may be executed independently and communicate with other components, each components including one or more sets of related shared objects which are replicated at collaborating application (see col. 17 L65 to col. 18 L13, col. 6 L22-42, col. 7 L15-48: i.e. a plurality of components executing in a single collaborative application in a one-to-many relationship).

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Furthermore, Mukherjee explicitly discloses a collaborative environment comprising a session manager, which itself is a collaborative application that manages a set of concurrent activities and their participants (col. 7 L15-48; note that the phrase “set” comprises one or more components).

As such, It is fairly clear that Mukherjee does disclose a named collaborative space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and configured to manage a plurality of business process components (i.e. components and plurality of shared objects) disposed within the named space in a one-to-many relationship (i.e. disposed in a single collaborative application).

Therefore applicants argument deemed towards the distinction between the prior art and the claimed invention in the present application are considered not persuasive.

b. The examiner has inappropriately equated a “Shared Book” to a named collaborative space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and configured to manage a plurality of business process components disposed within the named space in a one-to-many relationship as explicitly claimed by the applicants (remarks, page 9).

In response to argument [b], Examiner disagrees in light of the following:

Applicant’s specification recites:

[0019] Membership 14 refers to the people within the named collaborative space, i.e. the users of business processes 16 within named space 12. Business process 16 is implemented as one or more business component instances within named space 12. Business component instances provide the tools and resources used by membership 14. Examples of tools provided by business component instances include stock tickers, search engines, discussion forums, document libraries, meeting schedulers, etc.

In other words, applicant's disclosure discloses a collaboration environment wherein the collaborative name space includes stock tickers, search engines, discussion forums, document libraries, meeting schedulers, etc.

Bly, explicitly discloses a collaborating environment of a shared structured data object. Bly's system provides a mechanism in a network collaborating environment, wherein the shared data object is presented to the user in a collaborating interface with the appropriate status of the shared object (col. 9 L10-45).

Furthermore, Bly discloses a collaborating environment in which a user who has access to a property sheet is also able to edit the access field, i.e. configuring the members list, similar to "members object" of the applicant (col. 37 L23 to col. 38 L55 and fig. 6).

Figure 2 of Bly's system, explicitly indicates the collaborative name space and environment comprising plurality of components such as Bond Fund sections, references and notes section and market graph, i.e. single collaborative application or name space comprising and/or in association with plurality of components or objects in a one-to-many relationship.

As such, The Examiner has appropriately interpreted the Bly's Shared Book environment to a named collaborative space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and configured to manage a plurality of business process components disposed within the named space in a one-to-many relationship as claimed by the applicants in light of the applicant's disclosure.

For the at least reasons set forth above, the REJECTION IS MAINTAINED.

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent 6,058,416 issued to Mukherjee et al. (Mukherjee).

As per claim 1, 8, 15, Mukherjee teaches collaborative computing method for the establishment of a named collaborative space, the method comprising:

providing a named collaborative space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and configured to manage a plurality of business process components disposed within the named space in a one-to-many relationship (col.2, lines 60-col.4, line 6);

identifying a membership set for the named collaborative space, the membership set including one or more members (Fig.5); and

providing a plurality of business process component instances for management within the named collaborative space (Fig.5, col.6, lines 21-62); and,

managing a common lifecycle for each of the named collaborative space and the business process components within the named collaborative space (col.7, lines 15-67); and

storing a membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set identifying one or more members (Fig.5, col.6, lines 21-62);

a database, the database storing: a membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set identifying one or more members (Fig.2-5, col.2, lines 60-col.4, line 6); and

data corresponding to a named space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and a central processing unit functioning to provide at least one business process accessible within the named space, the central processing unit in operative communication with the database (col.2, lines 60-col.4, line 6).

As per claim 2, 9, 16 Mukherjee disclose the process wherein the business process component instances are business component instance visualized via a portlet (Figs. 2-5, col.6, lines 22-67).

As per claim 3,10,17 Mukherjee disclose the process wherein the members of membership set for the collaborative space are assigned a role, the role defining access and permission privileges to the at least one business process (col.7, lines 15-67).

As per claim 4,11,18 Mukherjee disclose the process wherein the established named collaborative space is templatable to serve as the basis for the establishment of other named collaborative spaces (col.7, lines 15-67).

As per claim 6, 13, Mukherjee disclose the process the transfer of information using enterprise java bean (col.5, lines 17-26).

As per claim 5,12,19 Mukherjee disclose the process wherein the established named collaborative space is provisionable from other named collaborative spaces (col.7, lines 15-67).

As per claim 7,14 Mukherjee disclose the process further including assigning a policy to the named space (col.7, lines 15-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5,7-12,14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,008,853 issued to Bly et al. (Bly) in view of US 6,901,448 issued to Zhu et al. (Zhu).

As per claim 1, 8, 15, Bly teaches collaborative computing method for the establishment of a named collaborative space, the method comprising:

providing a named collaborative space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and configured to manage a plurality of business process components disposed within the named space in a one-to-many relationship (Figs.3,9, col.20, line 1-15); and

providing a plurality of business process component instances for management within the named collaborative space(Figs.3,9,col.9, lines 10-26); and,

managing a common lifecycle for each of the named collaborative space and the business process components within the named collaborative space(col.9, lines 10-26); and

data corresponding to a named space defining a work place within the collaborative computing environment and a central processing unit functioning to provide at least one business process accessible within the named space, the central processing unit in operative communication with the database (Figs.3,9, col.20, lines 1-15).

However Bly does not explicitly teaches identifying a membership set for the named collaborative space, the membership set including one or more members; and storing a

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membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set identifying one or more members; a database, the database storing: a membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set identifying one or more members. Bly does suggest the use of members (Fig.6), describes an user interface with an access list and access rights, element 68.

Zhu explicitly teaches identifying a membership set for the named collaborative space, the membership set including one or more members (Fig.3,18-20,col.4, lines 12-57); and storing a membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set identifying one or more members (Fig.3,18-20, col.4, lines 12-57); a database, the database storing: a membership set for the collaborative space, the membership set identifying one or more members (Fig.3,18-20, col.4, lines 12-57).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Bly to explicitly identify members as taught by Zhu in order to allow computer users at different location to communicate and share documents or applications (Zhu, col.1, lines 25-62).

One ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Bly and Zhu in order to provide a system to allow computer users at different location to communicate and share documents or applications (Zhu, col.1, lines 25-62).

As per claim 2, 9, 16 Bly discloses the process wherein the business process component instances are business component instance visualized via a portlet (Bly, Figs. 1-15).

As per claim 3,10,17 Bly discloses the process wherein the members of membership set for the collaborative space are assigned a role, the role defining access and permission privileges

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to the at least one business process (Bly, Fig.6, Zhu, Figs. 3, 18-20). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 4,11,18 Bly discloses the process wherein the established named collaborative space is templatable to serve as the basis for the establishment of other named collaborative spaces (Bly, col.9, lines 10-30).

As per claim 5,12,19 18 Bly discloses the process wherein the established named collaborative space is provisionable from other named collaborative spaces (Bly, Abstract, Zhu, col.4, lines 9-56). Motivation to combine set forth in claim 1.

As per claim 7,1418 Bly discloses the process further including assigning a policy to the named space (Bly, Figs. 1-6).

3. Claims 6,13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,008,853 issued to Bly et al. (Bly) in view of US 6,901,448 issued to Zhu et al.(Zhu) in view of Office Notice.

Bly in view of Zhu does not explicitly teach as per claim 6, 13, the transfer of information using enterprise java bean.

Office Notice is taken; it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use enterprise java bean to transfer information because java bean is a reusable application component that can be combined with other java bean components to create a java applet or application. It would have been obvious to add the use of java bean to transfer information to Bly in view of Zhu in order transfer messages from one person to another with different computing platform.

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One ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to combine the use of java bean with Bly in view of Zhu in order to provide a system where once a program is written once, it can run on any computing platform to transfer information from one user to another.

Additional References

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Stewart et al., US 7,051,071 B2: Workflow Integration system for Enterprise wide electronic collaboration.
- Matheson, US 6,952,660 B1: Collaboration session recording model.
- Moser et al., US 2004/0107249 A1: Establishing a collaboration environment.
- Odenwald et al., US 2004/0107256 A1: Collaboration integration.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

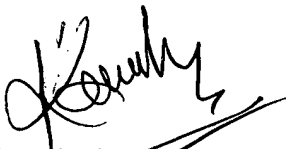
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CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

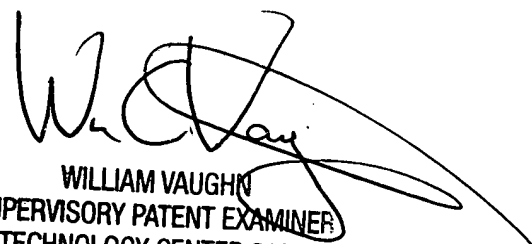
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAMAL B. DIVECHA whose telephone number is 571-272-5863. The examiner can normally be reached on Increased Flex Work Schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571-272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Kamal Divecha
Art Unit 2151
October 30, 2006.



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